Social Media As An Agent In The Political Socialization Of Second Generation Latines

by

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DEDICATION

To my family and friends for their unwavering support and encouragement.

"Sin miedo al éxito"

Acknowledgment

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ABSTRACT

Previous scholarship in political socialization has asserted the influence of parents and peers but is yet to address the influence of social media on the socialization process. Furthermore, within the growing literature of Latine politics and political psychology, the exploration of a bi-directional process with social media as a leading agent has not been fully explored. This thesis seeks to contribute to the literature by exploring the way social media has facilitated the introduction to politics to second generation Latines.

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Introduction

An individual's political socialization primarily starts in the home and is primarily conducted by parents, according to existing literature (Vaillancourt, 1973; Valentino & Sears, 1998). This traditional model of parental led political socialization assumes parents have an interest in politics to discuss it with their children and spouses. Secondly it also assumes that a parent has at least some knowledge of the political system that could be passed down to a child. There is a gap in the literature when it comes to the political socialization of children of immigrants. Most of the data that supports those claims has a severe underrepresentation of the Latine community ,whose introduction to politics will most likely not be parental led (Diemer et al., 2010; Ingels, 2002). The goal of this thesis is to address the influence that social media has on the political socialization process of second generation Latines.

In my thesis I will define second generation Latines primarily as young adults with foreign-born parents from central and South American countries, who grew up in the American education system and are now age eligible to vote. The education system for many Latines is the gateway to obtaining political knowledge through government and civic courses. Yet due to shrinking educational budgets those courses often get cut (Kozol, 2005). Although the Latine high school dropout rate has significantly improved in the past two decades, Latines still have the highest dropout rates among White, Blacks, and Asians, signifying a possible larger gap in political knowledge(Gramlich, n.d.).

A brief history of Latine immigration

The history of Latine immigration, and the subsequent creation of the term and the "racialization" of this ethnic group can be primarily traced back to the early 20th century. Early immigration policy restricted the number of immigrants the United States accepted through quotas. These quotas prioritized Western and Northern Europeans, thus creating a hierarchy of immigrant preference (Chavez, 2013). The establishment of quotas and border control created "illegal aliens" described by Leo Chavez in *The Latino Threat: Constructing Immigrants, Citizens, and the Nation,* as an individual who "bypassed border controls and found ways to enter the country"(Chavez, 2013).

Mexicans, Mexican- Americans, and Latines in general, became a "racialized minority" through the close association of "illegal aliens" by the public imagination. Chavez describes the "racialization" of a pan ethnicity as one that occurs not through a shared genetic code, but one "socially and culturally constructed based on perceived innate or biological differences and imbued with meanings about relative social worth" rendering any "legal" or "illegal" Latine as a perpetual foreigner (Chavez, 2013; HUYNH et al., 2011). This "racialization" created "alien citizens" of the native born- Latines, this theory is usually applied to Asian- Americans but can be easily applied to Latines. This social exclusion arguably further alienates Latines from public discourse and hinders political socialization. Although, Mexican and Mexican- American Latines are considered "White" under the law they were still segregated under Jim Crow and were barred from "White" schools. Thus they created their own "Mexican" schools all over the Southwest that did not have the same resources as the White schools because they were partially funded by the surrounding communities (Chavez, 2013; Miguel, 2001; Rosales, 2000). A history of segregated schooling and the "racial" othering of Latines are part of institutional roadblocks that

have put Latines at a disadvantage when seeking to become politically socialized by limiting the opportunities by which Latines could learn about civic engagement through school.

Latine political participation

Through the renewal and revision of the Voting Rights Act of 1975, Spanish- dominant Latines were enfranchised, as a language minority, could now access the ballot in Spanish. The current Latine electorate is notorious for low voter turnout. For the first time Latines make up the largest non- White share of eligible voters, but were reportedly less enthusiastic about voting in the 2020 Presidential election than other US voters (Krogstad & Lopez, n.d.). The existing literature can partly help explain the reason for the low voter turnout and participation of the Latine electorate through the traditional socioeconomic model (SES), that explains low political participation by pointing to low income and low education attainment (Verba et al., 1993; Weaver and Lerman, 2010). This model has been challenged before. Although it may help explain the Black and White turnout, it is faulty when applied to Asians and Latines (Leighley & Vedlitz, 1999). The average Latine income has declined after the great recession, but the share of Latine voters has increased (Igielnik & Budiman, 2020). An additional obstacle to political participation for the Latine demography can be citizenship. Although Latine immigration has decreased, following the great recession, most immigrants living in the United States come from Latin American countries (Budiman, n.d.). Unauthorized immigrants make up almost a quarter of all immigrants living in the United States; immigrant Latines who are authorized and have the opportunity to become naturalized citizens are reportedly less likely to apply for naturalization (Budiman, n.d.). According to a 2005 Pew Research survey, the top reasons for low naturalization rates for lawful Mexican immigrants were: language barriers, lack of interest, and financial barriers (Budiman, 2020). A potential explanation for the lack of interest can be traced

back to the "perpetual foreigner" syndrome some Latine immigrants, lawful or unauthorized, may experience. The 'perpetual foreigner" stereotype "posits that members of ethnic minorities will always be seen as the "other" in the White Anglo-Saxon dominant society of the United States", which can hinder acculturation by alienating a Latine and making them feel excluded from White American society and political tradition such as voting (Devos & Banaji, 2005; HUYNH et al., 2011). Acculturation is a unique process by which an individual gradually learns and adopts culture and customs outside of their own. In this instance gaining political knowledge for a foreign-born Latine is a part of acculturation. In this thesis discussed as political socialization, that cannot happen if they feel excluded from American society (Arredondo et al., 2014). An additional "othering" and obstacle in the process of acculturation that foreign- born Latines may face, is their English proficiency. Approximately 36% of foreign-born Latines are English proficient compared to 90% of US- born Latines (Flores et al., 2017).

The majority of Latines, 67% of the total Latine population, are US-born while foreign-born Latines make up 33% of the US Latine population (Flores et al., 2017). The median age of foreign-born Latines is 45, while the median age of US-born Latines is 20 (Budiman, n.d.; Flores et al., 2017). Due to declining birth rates among Latinas and the declining immigration rate, starting over ten years ago, one can loosely assume that the majority of foreign- born Latines are the parents of the majority of US-born Latines (Budiman, n.d.; Flores et al., 2017). The educational attainment level of 71% foreign-born Latine is less than high school, compared to 47% of US-born Latines, and 39% of all Americans (Flores et al., 2017). Past research into political socialization has established that the main way the American electorate derives their political knowledge and partisanship is through their parents. This assumes that parents have enough knowledge of the American political system and major parties to pass on the knowledge

(Vaillancourt, 1973; Valentino & Sears, 1998). However, second generation Latines, are born into families that moved from one political system to another, which may leave children at a disadvantage when it comes to political knowledge. Although the theory of "imported socialization" proposes that immigrants travel with a "political suitcase (attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors) that shape their behavior once they unpack in their new home" that serve as an agent aiding their adult political socialization in America, in theory their imported socialization could additionally serve as an agent in their children's political socialization (Wals, n.d.). The experiences of an immigrant and their own political socialization, pre- immigration, acting as tools to aid in the ongoing process of political socialization are most evident in surveys conducted by *The Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation 2004 National Survey of Latinos: Politics Engagement (NSL 2004)* and the *National Bank of Mexico's Division for Economic and Sociopolitical Studies 2003 Mexican Values Survey (MVS 2003).* These surveys that over half of Latines, living in the U.S. three years or less, claim a partisan affiliation (Wals, n.d.). However, claiming a partisan affiliation does not signify being politically active, which in this thesis is defined as voting or signing a petition. Nor does it signify political sophistication, here defined by political knowledge, that would signal the existence of potential tools of introduction for the children of immigrant Latines into the political process by their parents. Thus the education system has been burdened with the duties of introducing and socializing the future Latine electorate in an age when civic courses are at an all-time low (Kozol, 2005; Shapiro & Brown, 2018). The Latine high school dropout rate has significantly improved in the past two decades, but Latines still have the highest dropout rates among White, Blacks, and Asians, signifying a large gap in political knowledge (Gramlich, n.d.).

The next most available source of political knowledge to Latines, who cannot access political socialization through their parents or their school, is media, both traditional and non-traditional. On average, Millennials and Gen-Zers do not watch as much tv as older generations, thus limiting the chances of a young adult Latine watching the broadcast news that has traditionally served as an agent working towards political socialization for other Americans who were previously inactive voters (DellaVigna & Kaplan, 2007; Poggi, 2017). The next agent that could serve as a tool for political socialization that is widely used is social media. Keeping in mind the young average age of U.S. born Latines that have arguably more access to the vote than their predecessors, they are also the most likely to own a smartphone and use social media than other generations (A. Vogels, n.d.; Flores et al., 2017; Poggi, 2017). The American Millennial and Gen-z population are also the most likely to be the children of immigrants and be Latine (Barroso, 2020). The crossroads young Latines exist in allows for social media to be an influential source of knowledge that is readily accessible to anyone with an internet connection. The availability of information and disinformation that has been positively linked with political mobilization previously in European teenagers is now available to young Latines as well (Moeller & de Vreese, 2013). The political socialization process of a Latine has been previously described as a "prolonged partisan socialization process" by Dr. Robert F. Carlos, who has examined the peculiar manner in which children of immigrants seek out political socialization for themselves, because the traditional parental transmission of political knowledge and partisanship is not reliably present (Carlos, 2018). Thus, the reported "lack of interest" in politics can be easily translated as a missed opportunity to be introduced into the American political system.

The Latine electorate is often regarded as "the sleeping giant" purely because of their share of the American population and electorate, coupled with concentrations in swing states like Florida. Yet politicians and political campaigns attempt to motivate such a large and diverse electorate through largely visual campaign ads when they could be best used to educate and promote political participation. A foundational aspect of becoming politically active is to understand the importance of participation and how to do it. In the 2020 presidential election many celebrities endorsed a presidential candidate and proceeded to repost information on where to find your polling location (Van Allen, n.d.). In Texas, county websites seldomly had information on health protocols in polling location due to the pandemic, only 71% of country websites offered a way to find a polling location, through a list or a link to the Texas elections website (Rottinghaus et al., 2020). Voters, especially young voters, will look towards social media in order to find voting information rather than a county website. In this thesis I will explore the unique political socialization route taken by many Latine Millienals and Gen-Zers through social media.

Theory

Existing political socialization literature within political science have put forth several theories as to whom is responsible for the introduction of children and young people into our political system. The most popular theory proposes parents are the first agents of political socialization (Greenstein, 1992; McDevitt & Chaffee, 2002; Moeller & de Vreese, 2013; Tedin, 1974, 1980). That theory assumes that parents have sufficient political knowledge to pass on to their children. The theory, mentioned in the section above, of an immigrant suitcase may help explain the socialization by first generation Latines, who have reported a party affiliation within three years of immigrating, but does not help explain the socialization of Gen- Z second-

generation Latines who are growing up with the internet and social media (Arredondo et al., 2014; Barroso, n.d.; Wals, n.d.). The purpose of this thesis is to explore the role social media platforms play in socializing young second- generation Latines into politics. I argue that young second- generation Latines have a high exposure to news, current events, and discourse on social media, which may increase political knowledge, interest, and participation. Social media offers more accessible opportunities to participate in politics therefore becoming an influential agent in early political socialization.

The voter turnout rate for young people has been notoriously low. For Latines, it has been especially low, although in this past presidential election many young Latines registered to vote (Abrajano, 2010; Barroso, n.d.; Bustamante & Budiman, n.d.; Kaid et al., 2007). Political campaigns have spent millions of dollars on targeted ads on social media because they recognize the power social media's reach has and how often young people are interacting on these platforms. Therefore, having more exposure to the messaging political elites pay to broadcast (Poggi, 2017; Rutenberg, 2004; Stromer-Galley, 2019). Social media can make political participation more accessible because it can be in the form of "signal boosting" a post with important information or signing a petition online then reblogging it for all your friends and family to see and potentially do the same. Young Latines, who are less likely to watch the news then their parents and grandparent's generation, can be quickly informed, called to action, and participate within a span of a few minutes.

Due to the algorithms that boost the posts most people have interacted, most adults and young adults now receive most of their news on social media (Poggi, 2017; Shearer, n.d.; Sumpter, 2018). Even if social media users do not open the article, the headline will still give them at least some general knowledge of what happened and its importance due to its popularity

within the site. An algorithm that is trained to boost popular content will undoubtedly also boost misinformation that is salacious enough to draw a lot of interaction. Pew research reports that adults who use social media as a news source tend to be less knowledgeable about politics (Mitchell et al., 2020). There is only so much major news sources can do to encourage social media users to read the full article instead of just the headline, or political activist and politicians can say in a number of characters.

Online, political opinions and discourse are dominated by a small number of hyper partisans that amplify the perceived political polarization to users (Settle, 2018). Due to platform limitations, users can signal their support for a cause by pinning a post containing information and links or changing their profile picture to spread awareness. Actions, or the lack of them, transmit a clear message to their followers about who they support, if celebrities, brands, or elites do not signal their support for a popular issue they might be subjected to shaming, or "cancellation", thus boosting the issue's popularity and discourse. Subsequently, more people will have access to learn about the issue that is most popular that week. The fear of being "cancelled" has prompted the rise of performative activism, which arguably is what many politically unsophisticated social media users fall into, even if unconsciously so. Users perform activism online, but are not knowledgeable enough about the issue they signal to support. Thus their activism often does not translate into real world actions. Some research suggests that Millennials do not see voting as "the best mechanism to bring forth social change in society relative to engaging in protest activities or social media" (Sanchez et al., 2020).

Social media has facilitated political discourse and organization. The accessibility of social media platforms to anyone with an internet connection can expose anyone to information and disinformation campaigns. The socialization, political and otherwise, of a generation that has

grown up with the internet is yet to be explored. To Gen- Z, their online profile and the persona you can curate has become an extension of real life. Social media and the internet have also radically changed the way young people interact with electoral politics and their perception of civic engagement. In this thesis I will explore social media as an agent in the process of political socialization of second generation Latines, I expect social media to have a more prominent relationship to socialization than parental influence does.

Research Design

In order to gain some clarity about the link between social media and political socialization, I administered an online survey to the Latine student population of the University of Houston. The online survey was hosted on Qualtrics from February 25th to April 10th. The survey was distributed by anonymous links primarily through mass emails by professors, UH group chats, a post on Instagram by the Office of Undergraduate Research at the University of Houston, and UH Reddit.

My sample is not nationally representative due to financial restraints and the covid-19 pandemic. Although my sample is not representative the University of Houston is the second most ethnically diverse school in the country and has been designated a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) (University of Houston, n.d.). The racial and ethnic breakdown of the student undergraduate population is as follows, 33.2% of student identify as Hispanic, 23% White, 21.6% Asian, 10.2% as African- American, 7% as international, and 5% as other. According to census data, 18.5% of the population is "Hispanic or Latino" (*U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts*, 2019). The overrepresentation of Latines enrolled at the University of Houston gives my thesis an advantage by giving me more access to this section of the population.

The eligibility of participants for this study relied on their age, 18-25, their activity on social media platforms, and having at least one foreign born parent from a Latin American country or island. Originally 109 responses were collected, but 23 of them have been removed because the respondent did not complete the survey or did not meet all of the research criteria. Table 1 below demonstrates the distribution of Latines between genders. The options were between Male, Female, Transgender Male, Transgender Female, Other, and Prefer not to answer.

Table 1

Frequencies for Gender Identity

To which gender do you most identify?	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	50	58.140	58.140	58.140
Female	36	41.860	41.860	100.000
Total	86	100.000		

Table 2 breaks down participants by their parental country of origin. The most common country of origin is Mexico, this might be explained by the demographics of the state of Texas. Participants had the option to fill in a response, which is why some responses do not neatly fit into one category. No respondents have reported Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Cuba as their parental country of origin even if those are one of the biggest groups of Latines that are living within the continental United States (Sanchez et al., 2020). Nearly half of my respondents are reportedly from Mexican origin.

Table 3 below, illustrates the academic break down of the participants. Freshmen and Sophomores make up almost 52% of my response while Junior and Seniors share equal numbers.

Table 2

Frequencies for Parental country of origin

Country of Origin	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Argentina	2	2.326	2.326	2.326
Brazil	19	22.093	22.093	24.419
Chile	5	5.814	5.814	30.233
Colombia	8	9.302	9.302	39.535
El Salvador & Guatemala	1	1.163	1.163	40.698
Father: Mexico, Mother: Panama - US Military Base	1	1.163	1.163	41.860
Guatemala & El Salvador	1	1.163	1.163	43.023
Mexico	37	43.023	43.023	86.047
Mexico and Guatemala	1	1.163	1.163	87.209
Nicaragua	1	1.163	1.163	88.372
Peru	1	1.163	1.163	89.535
South America	7	8.140	8.140	97.674
Venezuela	1	1.163	1.163	98.837
Mother: Mexico and Father: Honduras	1	1.163	1.163	100.000
Total	86	100.000		

Table 3

Frequencies for UH student classification

Student Classification	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Freshmen	32	37.209	37.209	37.209
Sophomore	20	23.256	23.256	60.465
Junior	17	19.767	19.767	80.233
Senior	17	19.767	19.767	100.000
Total	86	100.000		

Table 4 demonstrates the reported family annual income. The missing response is from a respondent who declined to answer. Almost a quarter of respondent's reported annual family income is over $80,000 ,nationally on average foreign-born Latine's income was reportedly

$28,300 in 2017 (Kochhar, 2019). Although, this phenomenon could be explained by the respondent's enrollment at a university, only 16% of Latines have a bachelor's degree or more, which could suggest a level of class privilege by being able to afford to pursue higher education. The second highest reported annual income is $30,000 - $39,999 which is more in line with the findings past research.

Below, Table 5 illustrates the reported ideological identification of all respondents. Almost 75% of respondents have self- identified as "slightly liberal", "liberal", or "extremely liberal". This is not a surprise because the average participant age is 20.

Table 4

Frequencies for Annual Family Income

Income	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Under $20,000	3	3.488	3.529	3.529
$20,000 - $29,000	5	5.814	5.882	9.412
$30,000 - $39,999	16	18.605	18.824	28.235
$40,000 - $49,999	5	5.814	5.882	34.118
$50,000 - $59,999	15	17.442	17.647	51.765
$60,000 - $69,999	13	15.116	15.294	67.059
$70,000 - $79,999	9	10.465	10.588	77.647
Over $80,000	19	22.093	22.353	100.000
Total	86	100.000		

Table 5

Frequencies for Ideological Identification

Ideological ID	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Conservative	4	4.651	4.706	4.706
Extremely Conservative	2	2.326	2.353	7.059
Extremely Liberal	15	17.442	17.647	24.706
Liberal	34	39.535	40.000	64.706
Moderate	10	11.628	11.765	76.471
Not Sure	2	2.326	2.353	78.824
Slightly Conservative	3	3.488	3.529	82.353
Slightly Liberal	15	17.442	17.647	100.000
Missing	1	1.163		
Total	86	100.000		

Dependent Variable

My dependent variable is political socialization. I will be measuring the extent of political socialization done by social media through three main measures: political participation, political knowledge, and interest in politics.

In order to measure the extent of political participation reported by respondents, the survey questions asked, "Have you ever voted in a local, state, or federal election?" and "Have you ever attended a protest?". For both questions the possible answers are "Yes" and "No". Participants were also asked "Have you ever signed a petition online?" and "Have you ever signed a petition in person?", for both questions the only answers available are "Yes" and "No". Table 6 below demonstrates 63% of respondents have voted before. This number is unusually high when compared to the national average voter turnout, this may be due to social desirability response bias, although there is some research that suggests self-report surveys conducted online are less vulnerable to it because online surveys are self-administered (Holbrook & Krosnick,

2010; Pike, 2020). The frequency table below illustrates a shocking 58.8% of respondents have

attended a protest, assuming this number has not been terribly plagued by social desirability

response bias, an explanation would be the Black Lives Matter protests that occurred last

summer that attracted large crowds. The differences between those who signed petitions online

versus in person are drastic, nearly 30% more students reported signing a petition online than in

person.

Table 6

Frequencies for Voting

Q25	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	27	31.765	31.765	31.765
Not Applicable	4	4.706	4.706	36.471
Yes	54	63.529	63.529	100.000
Total	86	100.000		

Frequencies for Attending a Protest

Q26	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	36	41.176	41.176	41.176
Yes	50	58.824	58.824	100.000
Total	86	100.000		

Frequencies for Petition Online

Q27	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	12	14.118	14.286	14.286
Yes	72	84.706	85.714	100.000
Missing	1	1.176		
Total	86	100.000		

Frequencies for Petition in Person

Q28	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	39	44.706	45.238	45.238
Yes	46	54.118	54.762	100.000
Missing	1	1.176		
Total	86	100.000		

In order to test political knowledge, I administered a ten-question quiz, required or all participants to take. Figure 7 demonstrates the grade distribution; the average grade was 58.48%. Interest in politics was measured by a dial in my survey, 0 signified no interest at all. The average rate of interest is 5.4, lukewarm at best. Only one respondent chose 0 and on the opposite end of the scale, 7 respondents chose 10 to represent their interest in politics.

Figure 7

Table 8

Q40: Rate your interest in politics. 0 being no interest and 10 being very interested.		Total
	Total Count	86.0
	0	1.0
		1.2%
	1	2.0
		2.3%
	2	5.0
		5.8%
	3	5.0
		5.8%
	4	11.0
		12.8%
	5	6.0
		7.0%
	6	9.0
		10.5%
	7	6.0
		7.0%
	8	4.0
		4.7%
	9	1.0
		1.2%
	10	7.0
		8.1%

Independent Variable

The independent variables in this thesis will be social media use and parents. In the survey question 48 enquires about the number of political activists, political commentators, politicians, and or journalists the respondents follow across all their social media accounts. Table

9 below demonstrates the average number for each type of "political influencer" followed across

respondent's social media accounts. On average political activists and politicians are the most

followed with 16.5 follows respectively, political commentators follow close behind with 15.8,

and journalists come in last with 13.4.

Table 9

How many political activists, political commentators, politicians, or journalists do you follow across all your social media accounts?		Total
	Total Count (All)	86.0
	Average (Political Activists)	16.5
	Average (Political Commentators)	15.8
	Average (Politicians)	16.5
	Average (Journalists)	13.4

Respondents were asked on question 22 of the survey "How often do you speak to your parents

about current events and/or politics?", possible answers were "All the time", "Often",

"Sometimes", "Rarely", and "Never". Only one respondent reported "Never" speaking to their

parents about politics while 26.7% of respondents reported that they speak with their parents

about politics and currents "All of the time". The most popular answer was "Sometimes" with

32.6% of respondents reporting that answer. Approximately 16.3% of respondents reported

"Rarely" speaking with their parents about politics and currents while 22.1% reported "Often"

having those conversations.

Table 10

Q22: How often do you speak to your parents about current events and/or politics?		Total
	Total Count (All)	86.0
	All the time	23.0
		26.7%
	Often	19.0
		22.1%
	Sometimes	28.0
		32.6%
	Rarely	14.0
		16.3%
	Never	1.0
		1.2%

Data Analysis

Political Participation

In this thesis political participation will be accounted for through four different measures. The first will be voting, then attending a protest, signing a petition online, and signing a petition in person. Table 11 demonstrates all four counts of political participation and the amount of "political influencers" followed. Table 12 tests political participation against how often the student speaks with their parent about politics. Student responses for parental interaction were broken down into two major groups, those with high parental interaction were the ones who reported speaking with their parents about politics and current events "Often" or "All the time", those classified as having low parental interaction reported "Never", "Rarely", or "Sometimes" speaking to their parents about politics and current events. The results in Table 12 offer support to my thesis, the substantive difference in mean between those with high and low parental

interaction and political participation suggests social media has a bigger influence on young second- generation Latines than their parents.

Table 11

		Political Activists				Political Commentators				Politicians				Journalists			
		Total	≤16	17-33	34-50	Total	≤16	17-33	34-50	Total	≤16	17-33	34-50	Total	≤16	17-33	34-50
Q25: Have you ever voted in a local, state, or federal election?	Total Count (All)	71.0	43.0	17.0	11.0	72.0	44.0	19.0	9.0	66.0	39.0	17.0	10.0	71.0	54.0	10.0	7.0
	Yes	47.0	21.0	15.0	11.0	43.0	17.0	17.0	9.0	48.0	22.0	16.0	10.0	43.0	28.0	8.0	7.0
		66.2%	48.8%	88.2%	100.0%	59.7%	38.6%	89.5%	100.0%	72.7%	56.4%	94.1%	100.0%	60.6%	51.9%	80.0%	100.0%
	No	20.0	18.0	2.0	0.0	26.0	24.0	2.0	0.0	16.0	15.0	1.0	0.0	24.0	22.0	2.0	0.0
		28.2%	41.9%	11.8%	0.0%	36.1%	54.5%	10.5%	0.0%	24.2%	38.5%	5.9%	0.0%	33.8%	40.7%	20.0%	0.0%
	Not Applicable	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0
		5.6%	9.3%	0.0%	0.0%	4.2%	6.8%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	5.1%	0.0%	0.0%	5.6%	7.4%	0.0%	0.0%
	Average	0.7	0.5	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.8	1.0
	Standard Deviation	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.0
Q26: Have you ever attended a protest?	Total Count (All)	71.0	43.0	17.0	11.0	72.0	44.0	19.0	9.0	66.0	39.0	17.0	10.0	71.0	54.0	10.0	7.0
	Yes	46.0	21.0	15.0	10.0	48.0	22.0	17.0	9.0	42.0	16.0	16.0	10.0	47.0	33.0	7.0	7.0
		64.8%	48.8%	88.2%	90.9%	66.7%	50.0%	89.5%	100.0%	63.6%	41.0%	94.1%	100.0%	66.2%	61.1%	70.0%	100.0%
	No	25.0	22.0	2.0	1.0	24.0	22.0	2.0	0.0	24.0	23.0	1.0	0.0	24.0	21.0	3.0	0.0
		35.2%	51.2%	11.8%	9.1%	33.3%	50.0%	10.5%	0.0%	36.4%	59.0%	5.9%	0.0%	33.8%	38.9%	30.0%	0.0%
	Average	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.0
	Standard Deviation	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0
Q27: Have you ever signed a petition online?	Total Count (All)	71.0	43.0	17.0	11.0	72.0	44.0	19.0	9.0	66.0	39.0	17.0	10.0	71.0	54.0	10.0	7.0
	Yes	64.0	38.0	16.0	10.0	63.0	37.0	18.0	8.0	59.0	34.0	16.0	9.0	62.0	47.0	8.0	7.0
		90.1%	88.4%	94.1%	90.9%	87.5%	84.1%	94.7%	88.9%	89.4%	87.2%	94.1%	90.0%	87.3%	87.0%	80.0%	100.0%
	No	6.0	5.0	1.0	0.0	8.0	7.0	1.0	0.0	6.0	5.0	1.0	0.0	8.0	7.0	1.0	0.0
		8.5%	11.6%	5.9%	0.0%	11.1%	15.9%	5.3%	0.0%	9.1%	12.8%	5.9%	0.0%	11.3%	13.0%	10.0%	0.0%
	Average	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0
	Standard Deviation	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0
Q28: Have you ever signed a petition in person?	Total Count (All)	71.0	43.0	17.0	11.0	72.0	44.0	19.0	9.0	66.0	39.0	17.0	10.0	71.0	54.0	10.0	7.0
	Yes	46.0	19.0	16.0	11.0	43.0	16.0	18.0	9.0	45.0	19.0	16.0	10.0	44.0	28.0	9.0	7.0
		64.8%	44.2%	94.1%	100.0%	59.7%	36.4%	94.7%	100.0%	68.2%	48.7%	94.1%	100.0%	62.0%	51.9%	90.0%	100.0%
	No	25.0	24.0	1.0	0.0	28.0	27.0	1.0	0.0	21.0	20.0	1.0	0.0	27.0	26.0	1.0	0.0
		35.2%	55.8%	5.9%	0.0%	38.9%	61.4%	5.3%	0.0%	31.8%	51.3%	5.9%	0.0%	38.0%	48.1%	10.0%	0.0%
	Average	0.6	0.4	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.9	1.0
	Standard Deviation	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.0

Table 12

		Q22: How often do you speak to your parents about current		
		Total	High Parental Interaction	Low Parental Interaction
	Total Count (All)	85.0	42.0	43.0
	Yes	54.0	37.0	17.0
		63.5%	88.1%	39.5%
	No	27.0	4.0	23.0
Q25: Have you ever voted in a		31.8%	9.5%	53.5%
local. state, or federal election?	Not Applicable	4.0	1.0	3.0
		4.7%	2.4%	7.0%
	Average	0.6	0.9	0.4
	Standard Deviation	0.5	0.3	0.5
	Total Count (All)	85.0	42.0	43.0
	Yes	50.0	33.0	17.0
		58.8%	78.6%	39.5%
Q26: Have you ever attended a	No	35.0	9.0	26.0
protest?		41.2%	21.4%	60.5%
	Average	0.6	0.8	0.4
	Standard Deviation	0.5	0.4	0.5
	Total Count (All)	85.0	42.0	43.0
	Yes	72.0	38.0	34.0
		84.7%	90.5%	79.1%
Q27: Have you ever signed a	No	12.0	3.0	9.0
petition online?		14.1%	7.1%	20.9%
	Average	0.9	0.9	0.8
	Standard Deviation	0.4	0.3	0.4
	Total Count (All)	85.0	42.0	43.0
	Yes	46.0	35.0	11.0
		54.1%	83.3%	25.6%
Q28: Have you ever signed a	No	38.0	7.0	31.0
petition in person?		44.7%	16.7%	72.1%
	Average	0.5	0.8	0.3
	Standard Deviation	0.5	0.4	0.4

Political Knowledge

In order to test political knowledge respondents took a ten-question quiz, found in the Appendix. Table 13 and 14 below are contingency tables demonstrating the relationships between my independent variables, social media and parents, and the grades received by participants. Table 13 demonstrates mixed results. When the number of political commentators and politicians are lower so are their grades, but this is not the case for political activists and journalists. Table 14 illustrates that higher parental interaction in politics results in higher grades thus not supporting my thesis.

Table 13

Contingency Tables

Grade		How many Political Activist are being followed ?			
		-16	**17- 33**	**34- 50**	**Total**
0	Count	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	% within row	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN
20	Count	2.000	1.000	0.000	3.000
	% within row	66.667 %	33.333 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
30	Count	3.000	2.000	0.000	5.000
	% within row	60.000 %	40.000 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
40	Count	7.000	0.000	1.000	8.000
	% within row	87.500 %	0.000 %	12.500 %	100.000 %
50	Count	8.000	1.000	1.000	10.000
	% within row	80.000 %	10.000 %	10.000 %	100.000 %
60	Count	5.000	2.000	2.000	9.000
	% within row	55.556 %	22.222 %	22.222 %	100.000 %
70	Count	6.000	11.000	7.000	24.000
	% within row	25.000 %	45.833 %	29.167 %	100.000 %
80	Count	6.000	0.000	0.000	6.000
	% within row	100.000 %	0.000 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
90	Count	6.000	0.000	0.000	6.000
	% within row	100.000 %	0.000 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
100	Count	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	% within row	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN
Total	Count	43.000	17.000	11.000	71.000
	% within row	60.563 %	23.944 %	15.493 %	100.000 %

Contingency Tables

Grade		**How many Political Commentators are being followed?**			
		-16	**17- 33**	**34 - 50**	**Total**
0	Count	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	% within row	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN
20	Count	1.000	2.000	0.000	3.000
	% within row	33.333 %	66.667 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
30	Count	5.000	2.000	0.000	7.000
	% within row	71.429 %	28.571 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
40	Count	8.000	1.000	0.000	9.000
	% within row	88.889 %	11.111 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
50	Count	10.000	2.000	0.000	12.000
	% within row	83.333 %	16.667 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
60	Count	5.000	2.000	2.000	9.000
	% within row	55.556 %	22.222 %	22.222 %	100.000 %
70	Count	6.000	10.000	7.000	23.000
	% within row	26.087 %	43.478 %	30.435 %	100.000 %
80	Count	3.000	0.000	0.000	3.000
	% within row	100.000 %	0.000 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
90	Count	6.000	0.000	0.000	6.000
	% within row	100.000 %	0.000 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
100	Count	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	% within row	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN
Total	Count	44.000	19.000	9.000	72.000
	% within row	61.111 %	26.389 %	12.500 %	100.000 %

Contingency Tables

Grade		**How many Politicians are being followed?**			
		-16	**17- 33**	**3 4 - 50**	**Total**
0	Count	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	% within row	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN
20	Count	2.000	0.000	0.000	2.000
	% within row	100.000 %	0.000 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
30	Count	3.000	2.000	0.000	5.000
	% within row	60.000 %	40.000 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
40	Count	5.000	0.000	1.000	6.000
	% within row	83.333 %	0.000 %	16.667 %	100.000 %
50	Count	6.000	1.000	1.000	8.000
	% within row	75.000 %	12.500 %	12.500 %	100.000 %
60	Count	4.000	2.000	2.000	8.000
	% within row	50.000 %	25.000 %	25.000 %	100.000 %
70	Count	5.000	12.000	6.000	23.000
	% within row	21.739 %	52.174 %	26.087 %	100.000 %
80	Count	7.000	0.000	0.000	7.000
	% within row	100.000 %	0.000 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
90	Count	6.000	0.000	0.000	6.000
	% within row	100.000 %	0.000 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
100	Count	1.000	0.000	0.000	1.000
	% within row	100.000 %	0.000 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
Total	Count	39.000	17.000	10.000	66.000
	% within row	59.091 %	25.758 %	15.152 %	100.000 %

Contingency Tables

Grade		How many Journalists are being followed?			
		-16	17- 33	34- 50	Total
0	Count	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	% within row	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN
20	Count	2.000	1.000	0.000	3.000
	% within row	66.667 %	33.333 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
30	Count	4.000	2.000	0.000	6.000
	% within row	66.667 %	33.333 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
40	Count	9.000	1.000	0.000	10.000
	% within row	90.000 %	10.000 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
50	Count	9.000	2.000	0.000	11.000
	% within row	81.818 %	18.182 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
60	Count	4.000	2.000	2.000	8.000
	% within row	50.000 %	25.000 %	25.000 %	100.000 %
70	Count	16.000	1.000	6.000	23.000
	% within row	69.565 %	4.348 %	26.087 %	100.000 %
80	Count	3.000	0.000	0.000	3.000
	% within row	100.000 %	0.000 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
90	Count	6.000	0.000	0.000	6.000
	% within row	100.000 %	0.000 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
100	Count	1.000	0.000	0.000	1.000
	% within row	100.000 %	0.000 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
Total	Count	54.000	9.000	8.000	71.000
	% within row	76.056 %	12.676 %	11.268 %	100.000 %

Table 14

Contingency Tables

Grade		How often do you speak to your parents about current events and/or politics ?					
		All the time	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Total
0	Count	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.000	1.000
	% within row	0.000 %	0.000 %	0.000 %	0.000 %	100.000 %	100.000 %
20	Count	0.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.000	3.000
	% within row	0.000 %	33.333 %	33.333 %	33.333 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
30	Count	1.000	0.000	4.000	2.000	0.000	7.000
	% within row	14.286 %	0.000 %	57.143 %	28.571 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
40	Count	0.000	2.000	5.000	3.000	1.000	11.000
	% within row	0.000 %	18.182 %	45.455 %	27.273 %	9.091 %	100.000 %
50	Count	1.000	3.000	6.000	5.000	0.000	15.000
	% within row	6.667 %	20.000 %	40.000 %	33.333 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
60	Count	2.000	4.000	2.000	1.000	0.000	9.000
	% within row	22.222 %	44.444 %	22.222 %	11.111 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
70	Count	17.000	4.000	4.000	0.000	0.000	25.000
	% within row	68.000 %	16.000 %	16.000 %	0.000 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
80	Count	1.000	1.000	4.000	2.000	0.000	8.000
	% within row	12.500 %	12.500 %	50.000 %	25.000 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
90	Count	1.000	3.000	2.000	0.000	0.000	6.000
	% within row	16.667 %	50.000 %	33.333 %	0.000 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
100	Count	0.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.000
	% within row	0.000 %	100.000 %	0.000 %	0.000 %	0.000 %	100.000 %
Total	Count	23.000	19.000	28.000	14.000	2.000	86.000
	% within row	26.744 %	22.093 %	32.558 %	16.279 %	2.326 %	100.000 %

Political Interest

Interest in politics, as an integral part of political socialization in this thesis, was measured on a dial in the survey. Participants had the option to rate their interest anywhere 0 to 10, 0 being not interested in the slightest and 10 being very interested. Below Table 15 demonstrates that following a high number of political activists, political commentators, and politicians is correlated with a higher reported interest in politics and offers support for my thesis. Table 16 demonstrates a similar phenomenon, the higher the parental interaction is the higher the interest in politics is. This is surprising because most adults receive news rom social media rather than from conversations with friends and family. Although in this particular case, respondents took this survey while the global pandemic was occurring thus having more opportunity to talk about politics and current events because it was affecting all of our lives. Nonetheless, Table 16 does not offer support for my thesis because high parental involvement did increase interest in politics.

Table 15

	Political Activists				Political Commentators				Politicians				Journalists			
	Total	≤16	17-33	34-50	Total	≤16	17-33	34-50	Total	≤16	17-33	34-50	Total	≤16	17-33	34-50
Very unintrested	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	6.0	6.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	6.0	6.0	0.0	0.0
Not intrested	13.0	11.0	1.0	1.0	14.0	12.0	1.0	1.0	10.0	8.0	8.0	1.0	13.0	11.0	2.0	0.0
Somewhat interested	13.0	9.0	3.0	1.0	12.0	8.0	4.0	0.0	11.0	8.0	8.0	2.0	11.0	7.0	4.0	0.0
Interested	9.0	6.0	2.0	1.0	9.0	5.0	4.0	0.0	9.0	6.0	6.0	2.0	9.0	6.0	3.0	0.0
Very Interested	8.0	2.0	6.0	0.0	8.0	2.0	5.0	1.0	8.0	8.0	2.0	6.0	8.0	8.0	0.0	0.0
Average	3.1	2.8	4.1	3.0	3.0	2.5	3.9	3.5	3.3	3.3	2.9	4.2	3.0	3.0	3.1	0
Standard Deviation	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.1	1.0	2.1	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.4	0.8	0

Table 16

	Q22: How often do you speak to your parents about current		
	Total	High Parental Interaction	Low Parental Interaction
Very unintrested	8.0	0.0	8.0
Not intrested	16.0	3.0	13.0
Somewhat interested	15.0	4.0	11.0
Interested	10.0	8.0	2.0
Very Interested	8.0	7.0	1.0
Average	2.9	3.9	2.3
Standard Deviation	1.3	1.0	1.0

Conclusion

This thesis is an attempt at expanding the growing literature in Latine politics and mass media. This thesis focuses on older Gen-Zers and the youngest Millennials, who grew up exposed to political discourse due to access to the internet and social media. Researchers have not studied Latine political socialization to the extent White political socialization has been researched, social media as an agent in political socialization in Latines has been researched even less.

In order to test my hypothesis, I employed survey with a battery of self-report questions to the second generation Latine student population at the University of Houston, ages 18 to 25 who are active on any social media platform. I find that most have been enabled to participate in politics through social media, this is especially poignant because the covid-19 pandemic has limited the opportunities for young people to get involved and social media offers a safe way to do it. Secondly, I find that following "political influencers" on social media does not translate into political knowledge. Finally, I find that social media generates slightly more interest in

politics than parents do, although the amount of engagement in political conversations with parents was demonstrated to boost interest in politics as well.

As Latine Gen-Z and Millennials grow older and become even further socialized into the American political system a better understanding of how they go through that process will be key for politicians trying to advertise to and connect with a growing demographic of the American electorate. Although, barriers exist for Latines attempting to become politically active, mainly through voting, a better understanding of how they adopt a political ideology and choose to become an active participant in democracy will probably depend on the GOTV efforts conducted through social media platforms.

Appendix- Survey

Which of the following best describes you?

○ White

○ Black or African American

○ American Indian or Alaska Native

○ Asian

○ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

○ Other

Prefer not to answer

Do you identify as Latinx/ Hispanic?

○ Yes

○ No

Please type in your parents country of origin.

[   ]

To which gender do you most identify?

○ Male

○ Female

○ Transgender male

○ Transgender female

○ Other

Prefer not to answer

What is your family's annual salary range, before taxes?

○ Under $20,000

○ $20,000 - $29,999

○ $30,000 - $39,999

○ $40,000 - $49,999

○ $50,000 - $59,999

○ $60,000 - $69,999

○ $70,000 - $79,999

Over $80,000

How old are you?

[   ]

Do you have social media accounts, like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc ?

○ Yes

○ No

What is your student classification at UH?

○ Freshman

○ Sophmore

○ Junior

○ Senior

What school or college do you belong to?

- ○ Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design
- ○ Katherine G. McGovern College of Arts
- ○ C.T. Bauer College of Business
- ○ College of Education
- ○ Cullen College of Engineering
- ○ Honors College
- ○ Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Managment
- ○ UH Law Center
- ○ College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLASS)
- ○ College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
- ○ College of Nursing
- ○ College of Medicine
- ○ College of Optometry
- ○ College of Pharmacy
- ○ Graduate College of Social Work

College of Technology

Graduate School

Hobby School of Public Affairs

Who is the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives?

- ○ Rex Tillerson
- ○ Nancy Pelosi
- ○ Mitch McConnell
- ○ Lindsey Graham

A filibuster in the U.S. Senate can be used to prevent legislation from coming to a vote. Of the 100

U.S. senators, how many votes are needed to end a filibuster?

○ 50

○ 51

○
60
○

○ 67

71

Do you happen to know which political party currently has a majority in the U.S. Senate?

○ Democratic Party

○ Republican Party

Do you happen to know which political party has a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives?

○ Democratic Party

○ Republican Party

Which of the following rights is guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution?

○ The right to free assembly

○ The right to bear arms

○
The right to a public trial without unnecessary delay
○

The right for the people to vote for their senators instead of the state legislature

How is the number of terms a president can serve determined?

○ Custom and precedent

○
The 22nd Amendment to the Constitution
○

○
There is no limit
○

Article IX of the U.S. Constitution

The Party more generally supportive of raising taxes is?

○ Democratic Party

○ Republican Party

○ Libertarian Party

○ Not Sure

The Party more generally supportive of reducing the size of the federal government is?

○ Democratic Party

○ Republican Party

○ Libertarian Party

○ Not Sure

The Party more generally supportive of a path to citizenship is?

○
○
○
○
Democratic

Party

Republican

Party

Libertarian Party

Not Sure

Has the U.S. federal budget deficit gone up,down, or stayed the same under the Trump

administration?

○ Gone up

○ Gone down

○
Stayed the same
○
Not Sure

Where do you get your news from?

○ Social Media

○
Network and cable TV news programs(CNN,MSNBC,FOX etc)
○
Newspapers (print or online)
○
○ Podcasts

○ Radio news programs

Discussions with friends and family

How often do you speak to your parents about current events and/or politics ?

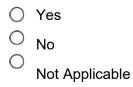○ All the time

○
Often
○
Sometimes
○
○ Rarely

Never

Are you aware of your parent's partisanship affiliations?

○ Yes

○ No

Did you take a civics/ government course in high school?

○ Yes, I took an AP/Honors course

○ Yes, I took a regular course

○ No

○ I don't remeber

Have you ever voted in a local. state, or federal election?

○ Yes

○ No

○ Not Applicable

Have you ever attended a protest?

○ Yes

○ No

○

Have you ever signed a petition online?

○ Yes

○ No

Have you ever signed a petition in person?

○ Yes

○ No

Do you support same-sex unions?

○ Male

○ Female

Do your parents support same-sex unions?

○ Yes
○ No
○
Not Sure

Do you support the legalization of marijuana?

○ Yes, only medical legalization.
○ Yes, recreational and medical legalization.
○
No

Do your parents support the legalization of marijuana?

○ Yes, only medical legalization.
○ Yes, recreational and medical legalization.
○
No
○
Not Sure

Do you support Education reform?

○ Definitely yes
○ Probably yes
○
Might or might not
○
○ Probably not
Definitely not

Do your parents support Education reform?
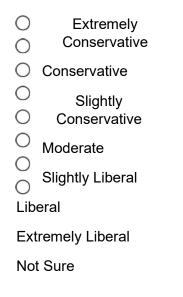
○ Yes
○ No
○

Not Sure

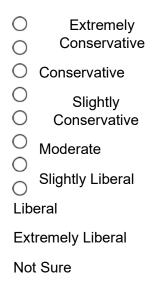Do you support a path way for citizenship for undocumented people in the U.S. ?

○ Yes
○ No

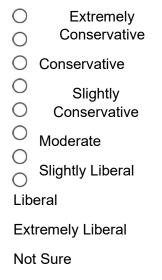Do your parents support a pathway for citizenship for undocumented people in the U.S.?

○ Yes
○ No
○ Not Sure

What is your ideological identification?

○ Extremely
○ Conservative
○ Conservative
○ Slightly
○ Conservative
○ Moderate
○ Slightly Liberal
○ Liberal

Extremely Liberal

Not Sure

What is your father's/ Parent 1 partisan identification?

○   Extremely
○   Conservative

○ Conservative

○   Slightly
○   Conservative

○ Moderate

○

○ Slightly Liberal

○

Liberal

Extremely Liberal

Not Sure

What is your mother's/ Parent 2 ideological identification?

○   Extremely
○   Conservative

○ Conservative

○   Slightly
○   Conservative

○ Moderate

○

○ Slightly Liberal

○

Liberal

Extremely Liberal

Not Sure

Rate your interest in politics. 0 being no interest and 10 being very interested.

What are your top three political concerns ? Please rank your all issues listed below with 1 being the most important and 12 being the least.

- Health
- Education
- Jobs and the
- Immigration
- LGBTQIA+
- Climate
- National
- The legalization of
- Reproductive
- Gun
- Race and Ethnic
- The corona virus

Click to write the question

text

○ Yes No A couple times a   A couple
○ times a

	Everyday	week	month	Rarely	Never
	○	○	○	○	○
How often do you read news articles? (not only the headline)	○	○	○	○	○
	○	○	○	○	○
How often do you watch a news broadcasting?					

Have you lied on any

question ?

Impacts of political activities. 0 being the least important and 10 being the most important.

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Signing a petition											
Voting											
Attending a protest											
Donating money to an organization or political campaign											
Reblogging a post											
Attending city council meetings or town halls											
Canvassing											

Do you look up political topics when they are trending on social media on a search engine?

○ Never

○ Rarely

○ Sometimes

○ Often

○ All of the time

Do you and your parents agree on most political issues?

○ Never

○ Rarely

○ Sometimes

○ Often

All of the time

Do you follow any political activist, commentators, politicians, or journalists on social media?

○

○

Yes No

How many political activists, political commentators, politicians, or journalists do you follow across all

your social media accounts?

	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
Political Activists											
Political Commentators											
Politicians											
Journalists											

Have you ever changed or reconsidered your opinion on a political issue because of post or series of

posts your read online?

○ Yes

○

No

Which social media platforms are you active on?

- ○ Facebook
- ○ Instagram
- ○ Twitter
- ○ Tumblr
- ○ Tiktok
- ○ Snapchat
- ○
- ○ Parler
- ○

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